CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

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# Frost New Ontario Treasurer

## Motion Picture Bureau Comes Within His Jurisdiction

Leslie M. Frost, elected by Victoria riding, Lindsay, to the Ontario Legislature, was sworn in as Provincial Treasurer and Minister of Mines by Lieutenant-Governor Albert Mathews as part of the ceremony which marked the taking over of power by the Progressive Conservative cabinet. He succeeded the Hon. A. St. Clair Gordon, who took the post when Mitchell Hepburn resigned.

As Provincial Treasurer Mr. Frost has within his jurisdiction

(Continued on Page 2)

## 27 to 30 Callup Causes Worry

The military callup of married men from 27 to 30 has the industry worried. The results will be serious and replacements uncertain. It is expected that women will replace those affected wherever the change can be made.

Those in charge of the staffs for the circuits are admitting freely

(Continued on Page 2)

## Indies' Confab to Weigh Groupings

The convention of the National Council of Independent Exhibitors, which will take place at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on August 23, 24 and 25, will devote part of its time to a discussion of the groupings approved by the Theatre and Film section of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

In a statement to the members,

(Continued on Page 7)

## "Who's This Guy 'Mister Lucky'?"

Harry Woolfe, branch manager for United Artists in Vancouver, won the Kinsmen's Home, a Vancouver project raffled off by that organization in behalf of their war effort.

Harry must have had a hidden hunch, for he quit RKO in Winnipeg so that he could go to Vancouver two months ago—or so the story goes.

He wired the news to UA's Canadian chief, Dave Coplan, who wired back:

"How does it feel to be 'Mr. Lucky' instead of selling 'Mr. Lucky'?"

"Mr. Lucky," if you don't remember, is an RKO picture.

## Laxer Not Connected

Barnett Laxer, who used to lead the Independent Motion Picture Exhibitors of Ontario is in no way connected with them or their convention now. He may drop around to see old friends.

## Mono Grouping Is Approved

Monogram's grouping of 1943-44 product has been approved by R. C. McMullen of the Theatre and Film section of the WPTB. Broken into four groups, they are:

Six top specials, two of which are ice musicals featuring Belita. The first one is "Lady, Let's Dance." The others in this group are "Ground Crew," with Jackie Cooper and Same Levine; and "Hitler's Women," with Gale Pat-

(Continued on Page 3)

## Galt Gathers Fat

The Capitol, Galt, Ontario, gathered in 1,365 pounds of fat at a matinee last week. It's an FPC house.

## Regal Films' Lineup Long and Strong

Henry Nathanson, president of Regal Films Corp. (1941) Ltd., announces the MGM lineup for 1943-44 as the best in its history. The emphasis is placed on escapist fare, though there will be plenty of serious themes. There will be a frequent use of Technicolor and a number of films now in preparation will be treated to meet the changing tastes of the public.

The following features are completed or in production:

"Madame Curie," with Walter Pidgeon and Greer Garson. Directed by Sydney Franklin, who did "Random Harvest."

"America," a historic cavalcade

(Continued on Page 7)

## G. Cloutier Burned In Theatre Fire

Gerald Cloutier, an employee of the Rialto Theatre, Quebec, P.Q., was painfully burned about the face while putting out a fire that broke out among film in the operating room.

There was no panic. The house emptied quietly when the public was informed.

## *Greeting Jimmy Grainger*

Here's the head table at the dinner in honor of James P. Grainger, president of Republic. From left to right: R. C. McMullen, J. Croft, Tom Bragg, Nat Taylor, Alf Perry, J. J. Fitzgibbons, James P. Grainger, Paul Nathanson, Haskell Masters, Bernard Kreisler, Ray Lewis, Morris Stein, Archie Laurie and Frank Fisher.

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Film Weekly

Vol. 8, No. 35 August 25, 1943

HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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## Let's Not Lag

In Washington there has been organized the Committee of Economic Development and included in it are representatives of such leading groups as General Motors, the Book of the Month Club, Eastman Kodak, General Foods, and many others.

The purpose of the Committee is discover now what it can do towards post-war planning—what is available in the way of manpower, materials and methods and how best to use them.

According to the Committee:

"By free enterprise, we mean freedom of opportunity, opportunity to work, to live decently, to educate children in the art of citizenship and human happiness and the skills of a trade or profession, to provide against sickness and old age. We stress opportunity, not contrasted with security, but identified with security. We believe in socially responsible risk-taking for the common good, with the hope of private profit as an incentive."

This is the most important conception of free enterprise to date. It will do much to remove post-war uncertainties in the USA. Canada will naturally be affected.

Two things occur to the Canadian film man—(1) Canada has no such committee and (2) the motion picture industry is not yet represented on the USA one.

Canada, however, has a government commission acting along the lines of private one in the USA. And Canada has a medium of serving such a committee unlike anything anywhere—the National Film Board. If the government can provide facts, figures and plans the National Film Board should be able to present them to the people of Canada.

Information and instruction are occupying the NFB right now. But it's time that direction was part of its job.

The National Film Board is engaged in direction all right—but it's wartime direction. Perhaps it's too early here for peace-time direction. But it's not too early for indication. That will make direction easier later. Provided, of course, that we know where we're going from here.

* * *

## Interesting Idea

Roly Young, motion picture columnist of the Toronto Globe and Mail, has been whacking away at the amount of American flag-waving in motion pictures. Also the lack of a Canadian equivalent of the USA. Canada, he says, has plenty of talent. On the latter subject he points out that the CBC spends the money it collects on itself. Then he writes:

"But, LOOK! In that same period the Canadian movie industry collected $10,256,502 in taxes for the Government! That was the Government's take from the $57,186,780 which Canadians paid for their moviegoing. The Government puts all the radio taxes it collects back into radio. If the Government would put the theatre taxes it collects back into the theatre—can you imagine what a whale of a Canadian National Theatres could be put across with an annual subsidy of $10,256,502? And that would only be a backlog, because in addition, there would be the admissions that would probably make it self-supporting."

Interesting—but unlikely.

## Leslie M. Frost New Treasurer

(Continued from Page 1)

the Ontario Motion Picture Bureau, the largest and most important organization of its kind in Canada. He becomes also the chairman of the censorship appeal board.

Born in Orillia, Ontario, the new Provincial Treasurer graduated from the University of Toronto and Osgoode Hall Law School. He served three years overseas during the last war and was seriously wounded.

He is regarded as an unusually capable organizer and played an important part in the success of his party. First elected in 1937, he proved himself an able debater, an expert on financial matters and a valuable member of various committees. He had been considered earlier for the position of Attorney-General.

Theatre and film exchange men are hoping that the political considerations which usually follow the unseating of the ruling party will in no way interfere with the present highly-efficient administration of the Ontario Motion Picture Bureau.

The work of the Bureau in constantly reducing fire and other danger in Ontario is known and imitated everywhere in Canada. Officials of other Canadian provinces and even USA men have been guided by Ontario methods. Only recently a national organization of theatre inspectors arose out of the Ontario meeting of the Canadian Fire Prevention Association. Ontario is the most populated province in the Dominion and contains one-third of Canada's theatres.

Theatre safety is the greatest worry of theatre men, any sort of serious fire or accident having the effect of reducing public confidence. Ontario theatre men have been resting easy because of the efficiency of the provincial Motion Picture Bureau. The Boston and Newfoundland fires stirred people everywhere but they were easily reassured in Ontario.

## 2 Montreal Vitagraph Workers Pass Away

Two veteran employees of the Montreal exchange of Vitagraph passed away last week. They are J. C. James, 59, and T. E. Carr.

Mr. Carr, shipper and booker with Vitagraph since 1924, died of a heart condition after six months' hospitalization. He leaves a wife with no children.

Mr. James joined First National Pictures in 1919, and continued in his position when Vitagraph took over this organization in 1929. His wife died a year ago, and one of two sons was killed overseas.

## 27 to 30 Callup Causes Worry

(Continued from Page 1)

that the situation will be very hard to overcome. Their ingenuity has been taxed up to now switching managers to keep their more important theatres operating as smoothly as possible. They are practically traffic experts.

Previous draft callups have caused a complete turnover in male ushers. Doormen, maintenance men and janitors are now old-timers, many of whom are inexperienced at their present tasks.

The present and next callup will leave the theatres limping badly from a standpoint of executive manpower. The solution still has supervisors baffled. There has been some overseeing done on the spot in those towns with several houses run by the same chain, the most experienced manager checking up on the other theatres. This means a frequent absence from his theatre by the overseer, an unhealthy state of affairs because the patron is used to being greeted. The friendly, personal atmosphere is being reduced constantly.

One wag suggested that theatre doors be closed and equipped with coin machines. The right admission, when inserted, would open the door just long enough to admit one patron.

It's no joke, however.

In the USA the War Manpower Commission has agreed that theatre employees who have been deferred on legitimate grounds, are overage or rejected by the army, need not switch to war work.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 8, No. 35 | COAST-TO-COAST COVERAGE | August 25, 1943

# 'Rising Sun' Is Power-Packed

## 'Bell' Will Not Be Shown Here

"For Whom the Bell Tolls," Paramount's super-production of Ernest Hemingway's story of the Spanish civil war, will not be seen in Canada unless the Theatre and Film section of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board is willing to make it an exception to the price-freezing rule.

Paramount offices in Toronto denied the report in a USA trade paper that a Toronto run had been arranged for the Royal Alexandra Theatre.

Taking three years to produce at a cost of $3,000,000, the film is in the same class as "Gone With the Wind" in many ways. In the United States it is being sold on 70%-30% terms to exhibitors and the minimum admission charges are 75 cents during the day and $1.10 at night. It is doing tremendous business in New York, where it is in its sixth week. Paramount is guaranteeing the exhibitor 10% of the gross receipts as his profit.

In view of the seriousness of the price control situation, as explained to the press last week by Donald Gordon, price controller, it is unlikely that any exception to the regulations will be allowed at the moment.

It remains to be seen whether "For Whom the Bell Tolls" will be the same attraction to the public when the time comes later for its unreeling in Canada. It has a certain amount of political content, though most of it is timeless stuff.

## L-Corp'l A. Sabblut Killed in Sicily

The first death among former Vitagraph Limited employees now in the Canadian armed forces, is that of Lance-Corporal Aaron Sabblut, who was reported, as of August 8th, "killed in action in the Sicilian campaign".

Sabblut, employed for several years in the Winnipeg branch as revisor and shipper, left Vitagraph to join the Canadian Army on May 30, 1942.

## STRONG SUCCESSOR TO 'HITLER'S CHILDREN'

RKO

(Running Time: 88 Mins.)

This is a frank attempt to follow up on the success of "Hitler's Children" and it should give that film a run for its records. Though not of the same great interest here that it is in the USA, "Behind the Rising Sun" has a full-fledged Jap background, striking revelations about how the Jap lives and thinks at home and how he acts in conquered countries. It provides an almost new background, thus offering novelty, and much of it has horror appeal.

Apparently it doesn't need big names any more than "Hitler's Children" did. It is, however, excellently cast, the leading players being Margo, Tom Neal, J. Carroll Naish, Robert Ryan, Gloria Holden, Don Douglas, George Givot and Adeline DeWalt Reynolds.

The film acknowledges that there are liberal-minded Japanese who disapprove of all that is going on there now. It is this conflict over loyalty to Emperor as opposed to loyalty to humanity which provides the emotional disturbances of the Japanese characters. The other differences, maintained by the Americans caught by the Japs, are purely physical. The idea of weaving two distinct story lines with each other is carried further by two different romances, one Japanese and the other American.

Tom Neal is a USA-educated Jap whose high ideals are corrupted by his father, J. Carroll Naish. The father relents but the son becomes hardened by the campaign in China. Margo is a Japanese girl who wins Neal's love and remains behind to fight for freedom when the Americans leave on passports okayed by Naish. Neal has been killed.

Margo is the secretary to Don Douglas, an American engineer being chased romantically by Gloria Holden, a newspaper woman, an affair which is settled conclusively in a Jap jail. George Givot is the funny Russian correspondent who is also a spy. One thrilling scene shows a fight between an American boxer and a Japanese wrestler, Ryan being the boxer and Mike Mazurki the wrestler.

There is a graphic treatment of the bombing of Tokio, during which the Americans escape.

"Behind the Rising Sun" is excellently played by all. It has timeliness and news value, makes plain the selling of children into immorality and reveals the feudal minds of the people. In many ways it's a shocker and should attract unusual-sized trade.

## Mono Grouping Is Approved

(Continued from Page 1)

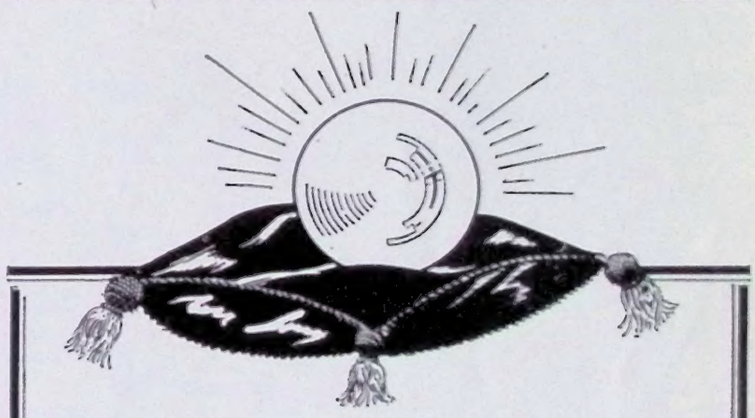
rick, Tala Birrell, Maris Wrixon, Alan Baxer and directed by Anatole Litvak.

The first group has ten, made up of four East Side Kids features, four musicals and four Charlie Chans.

There are ten in the second group, two featuring Bela Lugosi, two of the Cisco Kid series, and six other features to be announced.

Eight Westerns make up the third group, four of which will feature Johnny Mack Brown and Raymond Hatton. The others will star Hoot Gibson and Ken Maynard.

The exchange will release a total of 34 during the season.



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## Emp-U's Double-Feature Dinner

The evening hours of the Empire-Universal convention were given over to successive get-togethers, Republic on the first night and Universal on the second. Both provided an unrestrained atmosphere and much raillery of a personal nature, usually the case when old friends foregather.

On the Republic occasion Paul Nathanson was the amiable ringmaster who, with quiet and insinuating wit, prodded business rivals such as J. J. Fitzgibbons of Famous Players and Haskell Masters into a ribbing match. The toastmaster became snared in his own oral net, which reached out and snagged Jimmy Grainger of Republic, the guest of honor.

Grainger came out on top, not because he was better at the good-and-badinage, but because he had the last word—which was the idea.

At the Universal dinner in honor of Bill Scully everyone, rank and file and neutral, was given a chance to throw verbal brickbats. Haskell Masters, the most uninhibited orator in the world, tossed a few himself and invited a dozen others to have a go at it. The fellow who came out best in this conversational battle royal was the popular Frank McCarthy, who can speak a piece with the best of them. Not that Bill Scully didn't make a top-notch runner-up.

It all came off in a fashion to warm the heart of Archie Laurie, who likes nothing better than whipping up a high-class party and succeeded in his efforts on both evenings.

## Touches and Retouches

Staff, partners and heads of 20th Century Theatres gave a farewell party one day last week for popular Margaret Swelgman who has since become the wife of LAC Sol H. Litkind. Margie, in charge of all communication with the outside world via phone, has been brightening up the office for over four years. Her gifts were positively ooh!-inspiring. The staff gave her a many-pieced set of classic crockery and Nat Taylor, the g.m., presented the then bridé-to-be with an elegantly-encased set of Rogers 1847 flatware for himself and Raoul Auerbach. Couldn't happen to a nicer girl. . . . A sentimental event took place at Premier Operating when the kids got together to present Jack Melzer, leaving to operate his own theatre, with a swell bag and a military brush set. . . . Happy is Harvey Harnick, who just found how to see the Maple Leafs play on a pass. The rest of the film mob is trying to shake the secret out of him.

## Second Front Note

At the Scully dinner, fresh from the Winnie-FDR confab at Quebec, Frank O'Byrne of the Associated Screen News told a few of us a story going the parley rounds.

An American newspaperman who came to the Citadel City because of the persistent rumor that Stalin would be on hand decided to drown his disappointment. Loudly he invited the other scribes to his room to share a bottle of vodka.

"Why vodka?" one asked.

"Churchill's here and Roosevelt's here," answered the miffed and spiffed scribe. "Who do you think is taking care of the war?"

## Ycleptomania

Chris Georgas sent Harvey Hunt of Famous a big fish, which was put on a window sill to keep it cool. It was somehow forgotten overnight and the morning whiff sent the staff scuttering for gasmasks. Some nasty person suggested that it was coming from the screening room, where the new product was being unreeled. . . . Jackson Barker had his quirks recorded and his amiable mug reproduced in the Telegram last week. His fame as an Ellington disc collector was spread everywhere by Satevepost and the Tely took the tip. He ought to peddle autographs for the war effort. . . . Mickey, the Shea's cat, presented Manager Fred Trebilcock with quintuplets. Three he named after Tom Daley, Archie Laurie and LAC Colin Corbett. The others were dedicated to "Plugger," the NFB goon—and yours truly. Ah, fame at last! . . . Johnny Ganetakos was the sleepless wonder of the Emp-U meet, the boys using his room as a day-and-night haunt.

# 'Gates of Italy' Revised for USA

"The Gates of Italy," the National Film Board short which won editorial condemnation because of its pro-Italy content and its lack of Anti-Fascist sentiment, is being revised for USA and foreign showings.

Variety, leading trade paper of the show world, reported that "Downfall of Mussolini and swiftly moving events in Italy are causing the National Film Board of Canada to hold up revisions on 'Gates of Italy' for two or three weeks. World in Action short was altered to comply with Grad Sears suggestions, but considerable additional revamping will be done if there are further changes in military leaders for the Italians. United Artists distributes these shorts. Commentary on all footage showing Mussolini had to be revised as a result of the Duce's dethroning."

The information apparently reached the public through United Artists head office only. In view of the stir it would have been more in order for the NFB to have made the revisions known through a press release in Canada. The National Film Board, a government body, has an obligation to the Canadian public. A friendlier atmosphere all-around would have prevailed if some public acknowledgment of the protests and actions arising from them were brought to the attention of the taxpayers.

"Gates of Italy" opened in Toronto at the Imperial, the feature film being "Coney Island." Though the feature was held over, the short was dropped.

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# Indies' Confab to Weigh Groupings

(Continued from Page 1)

President Ben Freedman of the Ontario wing denied that the organization had grown inactive. "Actually," he said, "we were waiting to see how the 1942-43 picture groupings would affect product costs so that we could have a basis for comparison with prices for previous years."

Such a table of comparisons, he stated, will be an essential piece of evidence which will carry weight in subsequent discussions with the Wartime Prices and Trade Board.

The Ontario branch says that sizeable delegations from Independent groups in British Columbia, the Maritimes, Quebec, Alberta and Manitoba will be present.

The delegates will be greeted at a luncheon on August 24th. That same evening, at 7:30, the visitors will begin a chicken barbecue at Charlie Mavety's Circle M Ranch at Kleinberg, Ontario.

## Brantford Perks Up

The Capitol, Brantford, Ontario, is getting an overhauling inside and out.

# Regal Lineup Long and Strong

(Continued from Page 1)

of USA industry in Technicolor, featuring Brian Donlevy.

**"A Guy Named Joe,"** with Irene Dunn and Spencer Tracy. Produced by Victor Fleming of "Gone With the Wind."

**"Song of Russia,"** with Robert Taylor, will have a musical background from the works of Russia's greatest composers. A love story.

**"White Cliffs of Dover,"** with Irene Dunne, Frank Morgan, Roddy McDowell, Dame May Whitty and C. Aubrey Smith. In it will be depicted the Dieppe raid.

**"Lassie Come Home,"** a great dog story in Technicolor, with Roddy McDowell, Donald Crisp, Nigel Bruce and Elsa Lanchester.

**"Little Miss Magic,"** with five-year-old Margaret O'Brien, James Craig and Marsha Hunt.

**"Cry Havoc,"** with an all-feminine cast including Ann Sothern, Margaret Sullivan, Fay Bainter, Marsha Hunt and Joan Blondell.

**"The Man From Down Under,"** with Charles Laughton and Binnie Barnes, the first story of Australia to be produced in Hollywood.

**"Tartu"** has Robert Donat in a spy story.

**"The Cross of Lorraine,"** with Pierre Aumont, Gene Kelly, Richard Whorf and Peter Lorre.

**"The Heavenly Body,"** co-starring Hedy Lamarr and William Powell in a fine comedy.

**"See Here, Private Hargrove,"** from the leading best-seller, will star Robert Walker of "Bataan" fame.

**"Salute to the Marines,"** a Technicolor story with Wallace Beery.

**"Above Suspicion,"** with Joan Crawford and Fred MacMurray.

**"Dragon Seed,"** from Pearl Buck's popular novel, with an all-star cast.

**"National Velvet,"** with Mickey Rooney, a story of England.

**"Rationing,"** a comedy with Wallace Beery and Marjorie Main.

**"Frankie From Frisco,"** in Technicolor with Lana Turner.

**"Gaslight,"** starring Ingrid Bergman and Charles Boyer.

**Musicals** include **"Best Foot Forward,"** with Lucille Ball and Harry James, in Technicolor and in its eighth week at Radio City; **"As Thousands Cheer,"** in Technicolor and with Gene Kelly, Jose Iturbi, Judy Garland and a host of other big names; **"I Dood It,"** with Red Skelton and Eleanor Powell; **"Right About Face,"** with Kay Kyser and a number of other boxoffice names; **"Girl Crazy,"** with Rooney and Garland; **"Broadway Rhythm,"** with George Murphy, Ginny Simms, Lena Horne and Rochester; and **"Meet the People,"** with Lucille Ball, Dick Powell and Bert Lahr.

The Hardy series, as well as the Masie and Dr. Gillespie regulars are on the schedule.

## Fala Short Big

The Roosevelt-Churchill Quebec confab has been a big boost to MGM's short subject, "Fala—the President's Dog." The Canadian press has been full of the meeting, with frequent mention of FDR's Scotty, and the folks want to see him.

## Leslie's Good Fight

Len Leslie of FPC's accounting department, ran third in the election for Toronto's High Park riding, which was won by Premier George Drew. Len, a veteran of the last war, polled 3,366 votes.

## Kupper Becomes Fox General Sales Mgr.

William Kupper, 20th-Fox veteran, has been appointed general sales manager of the company by Tom Connors, vice-president in charge of world-wide distribution. He was home office representative. Kupper started out many years ago as an actor at the Fox New York studios.


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